

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 HA-05 CA-01 PPT-01 /079 W
-----105893 240626Z /10

R 231610Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7000
INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMEMBASSY GABORONE
AMEMBASSY MASERU
AMEMBASSY MBABANE
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L CAPE TOWN 584

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, SF (TRANSKEI)
SUBJECT: TRANSKEI-SOUTH AFRICAN RELATIONSHIP

REF: MASERU 603,

1. THE CURRENT LESOTHO-TRANSKEI BORDER PROBLEM
RAISES THE QUESTION AS TO WHAT EXTENT TRANSKEI MIGHT
ACT ON ITS OWN IN THIS AND SIMILAR SITUATIONS WITHOUT
SOUTH AFRICAN CONCURRENCE (REFTEL). WE DO NOT
KNOW IF TRANSKEI NOTIFIED THE SAG OF ITS INTENTION TO
REQUIRE TRANSKEI VISAS OF LESOTHO CITIZENS CROSSING
THE BORDER, BUT IT WOULD NOT BE SURPRISING IF IT DID NOT.

2. DESPITE ITS TOTAL DEPENDENCE ON THE SAG AND ITS LACK OF
INTERNATIONAL ACCEPTANCE, TRANSKEI OFTEN ACTS AS
INDEPENDENTLY AS IT CAN. IN THE PERIOD SINCE 1976, MATANZIMA
HAS MOVED SYSTEMATICALLY TO REDUCE HIS NON-ECONOMIC TIES TO
SOUTH AFRICA, PARTICULARLY BY CUTTING DOWN THE NUMBER
OF SECONDED PERSONNEL IN THE CIVILIAN GOVERNMENT.
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HE HAS ENTIRELY ELIMINATED SOUTH AFRICANS FROM
THE UNIFORMED POLICE, SECURITY POLICE AND THE ARMY.

3. WE HAVE LITTLE TO INDICATE THAT THE SAG DELIBERATELY ATTEMPTS
TO CONTROL ALL OR MOST TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT ACTIONS. TO DO
SO TOO OVERTLY WOULD UNDERCUT THE BASIS OF "INDEPENDENCE"
ATTAINED THROUGH THE SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM.

RELIANCE ON THE ANNUAL SAG DOLE AS THE MAJOR PART OF TRANSKEI GOVERNMENT REVENUE NO DOUBT PREVENTS MATANZIMA FROM UNDERTAKING VENTURES SERIOUSLY AT VARIANCE WITH THE SAG'S MORE IMPORTANT INTERESTS; BUT IT DOES NOT PRECLUDE TRANSKEI FROM PURSUING ITS OWN INTERESTS OR ENGAGING IN SOMETIMES VIRULENT ATTACKS ON THE SAG.

4. ON THE WHOLE THERE IS AN INCREASINGLY CRITICAL TONE IN TRANSKEI'S PUBLIC STANCE TOWARD THE SAG ON ISSUES IMPORTANT TO TRANSKEI SUCH AS DEMANDS FOR MORE LAND OR THE TREATMENT OF TRANSKEIANS IN WHITE SOUTH AFRICA. IN A RECENT SPEECH MATANZIMA LASHED OUT STRONGLY AT SOUTH AFRICAN APARTHEID AND OTHER POLICIES AND EVEN INDICATED THE DESIRE TO SEE TRANSKEI MORE ACTIVELY ALIGNED WITH RADICAL FORCES IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.
BOWDLER

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Message Attributes

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